



# **PRESS RELEASE**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

by the Office of LA County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis

## **Revamping Rosemead Blvd for wider array of users**

Bicyclists, equestrians and a bustling stream of pedestrians foreshadowed the multi-modal future of Rosemead Boulevard during a morning ceremony at Whittier Narrows Park.

The boulevard is the site of a "Complete Streets" project, which is designed to enable safe access for everyone. Bikes, strollers, scooters and even horses will someday safely share the route with vehicles, said LA County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis.

The opportunity for change came on October 7, when Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill that will relinquish Caltrans control of a 2.6-mile stretch of Rosemead Boulevard (State Highway 19) to the county.

The legal transfer of authority opens the door to a re-imagined Rosemead Boulevard in the vicinity of Whittier Narrows Park, an area that is home to trails, athletic fields and popular cultural events that draw more than a million visitors each year.

"This is a comprehensive approach to redefine how LA County creates public facilities," Solis said, recognizing that partnerships will smooth the transition and shape the future.

The measure, SB 461, was sponsored by the LA County Board of Supervisors and authored by State Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez. He and State Assemblymember Ed Chau shepherded the bill through their branches of the legislature, securing unanimous passage. Grant funding will enable the public consultation and design process to begin in mid-2016.

"This is a great example of 'community-driven' legislation benefiting the entire community," Hernandez said. "It's a great example of what we can do together."

The corridor better connects with the Metro Gold Line and fits with both the Whittier Narrows Master Plan and the San Gabriel Valley Bicycle Master Plan.

Giving local entities control over this road—and allowing a reduction in vehicle speed—will improve air quality and make it healthier area for people to walk, bike or run to the park.

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